EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF GERDA SCHNEIDER

Berlin, October 4, 1945

As a former political prisoner of the women's concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau and Ravensbrück, I am following the press reports about the concentration camps with understandable interest. I can see that the public is very skeptical toward the witnesses. But if their information seems unbelievable to people who have not lived through a camp, an eyewitness can only say that their reports understate the reality of the camps. Maybe it is easier just to regard bare numbers. I myself had the number 586 in Auschwitz-Birkenau and belonged to the first thousand women that were sent from Ravensbrück to Auschwitz in March, 1942. We were the first that entered the camp. I will organize my statement as follows: First, the numbers of gassings that can be proven for the time between March 1942 and August 1944 from the registered numbers. Then the approximate number of people who died from so-called "suicide at the wire" or who were shot during the work time "on the run." Third, the members of the detachment "Budy" and the camp Birkenau itself who have been beaten to death. Finally, the so-called "normally deceased," which includes prisoners who were killed by injections.

Point One: Gassings

On 3/26/42, the first thousand women entered the camp Auschwitz. Two hours after our arrival the first thousand Jewesses from Slovakia were brought in. This was the admission procedure. Twenty women at a time had to go into the washing room. There they had to get undressed and throw all their clothes on one pile. Then they were "deloused," i.e., they simply got their hair cut off, whether or not they had vermin. After they had gone into very hot water in brick basins, they received their "camp clothing." The camp clothing was one striped men's shirt for everybody, one cotton twill overall (the overalls were the summer uniforms of the Russian prisoners of war that had already died) and a pair of wooden clogs. The people were not given soap; they did not have toothbrushes, towels, combs or handkerchiefs.

Convoys with prisoners came constantly, so that in the months outside the gate. But there were very few decent *Capos*, most of them collaborated with the SS men and chased the prisoners to death. If sick prisoners stayed inside the camp, their only chance to stay alive was that it was not a selection day. But still their survival was a "maybe." And the formation of the work units was not complete before the columns had left the camp. Until then, the sick prisoners could still be discovered in their hiding places and dragged or beaten to the work columns, and they would not survive in the state that they where in. The camp street looked like a battlefield after a manhunt. In the ditches, in the street, around the blocks there were bodies, half-dead people, dying people. It went like this every day. Sunday was not an exemption. We worked even on Sundays.

Now to the "normally deceased." In the camp we had a death rate of 160-180 normally deceased every day. Who was counted as normally deceased? The ones who died from epidemics or from injections. How did those people die? They died in caves that are called "barracks." Or they died in residential blocks that were not more than caves either, or in camp ditches. Or they lost their balance at the so-called latrine, fell in and suffocated in the excrement. They died of exhaustion. The high point of the death rate was reached in the months November – December 1943 and January - February 1944. The number of deaths increased to 450 a day. There was an epidemic of stomach typhus. The bodies were lying in piles on the blocks. The mortician unit did not manage to take the bodies away anymore; it had to drive around the camp with a truck and take several bodies at a time to the place where the hearse picked them up. It used to come once a day with a trailer, but now it had to drive two or three times a day.

Deadly injections were given by the SDG (first aid assistants). From August 1942 until 1943, only dead children could be born. So the first aid assistant on duty gave every newborn child a deadly injection. All around us, there was nothing but dying.

Some numbers are still missing to give an overview of the exterminations in Auschwitz-Birkenau. On 3/26/42, the women's camp started counting with the number one. In August 1944, the first series counted 84,000 and some hundred. About 18,000 of them were still alive and 100 had been released during the whole time. All the others have died in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

There was another procedure that I have not yet mentioned in my description of the occurrences in Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was December 1942, when suddenly a professor Dr. Glaubach appeared in Birkenau everything on the double time. If somebody was not able to do that anymore, he was lost. Our motto was "endure, hold out, don't open your mouth."

Then there was the well-known "lawn turning," a specialty of the Unterscharführer Winkler. Every day 50-100 had to die. The apparatus consisted of one square meter of lawn with a wooden peg in the middle, one half meter high, and around that there was water up to three meters deep. The prisoner had to walk around the peg until he got dizzy and fell into the water. Before the "lawn turning," the prisoners were beaten or had to exercise to make their bodies sweat. Not many survived this. They chose victims randomly every day. I was among them because I had requested to be transferred from the quarry to a better unit, and because I had given away a professional criminal named "Hunter." That cost me nine teeth and serious pneumonia. People were also forced to leap off the quarry, or the block elders asked SS to push them down the quarry. In the hospital barracks, people were killed by SS officer Dworak with gasoline injections or with poisoned sweet coffee. Each month 500 to 700 prisoners had to sacrifice their life to "Mr. Himmler's SS guards," and then they needed new recruits to fill up the camp.

On Christmas day, we had to carry stones up and down Mount Olive until 6 PM so we wouldn't get bored and would have a nice holiday.

In March 1940, we came back to Dachau, but only 468 of the 1,000 men who had left in September 1939 were still alive, and even those were halfway starved and sick. They left us alone for a while to recover. Then I volunteered for the bomb unit. We had to search for unexploded shells around Munich and blow them up. They gave us in writing that we would be released after having found and salvaged three shells. In the end, I found 34 and everything they had promised turned out to be a lie. Then 150 prisoners were transferred to the camp Mauthausen-Gusen as stonemason apprentices; that was in March of 1941. Gusen was the camp where in 1942, the first Russian prisoners of war were killed. They were killed by the 1000s and in a bestial manner. The officers Oberscharführer Seidler, Oberscharführer Kluge and Unterscharführer Stiegle distinguished themselves especially. There was not half enough ammunition for them to shoot all the prisoners and not enough rope to hang them. So they had to find some other way to kill the prisoners. They simply put them into a barrel full of water and drowned them. Camp commander Oberscharführer Seidler selected who was going to be killed, and a camp prisoner, *Capo* van Lessen, revenge will come, and it has already come, even if not completely.

In January 1944, I was transferred from Auschwitz to the annex camp "Birkenau" to work as head *Capo* of the investment office and the big disinfection facility (the so-called sauna). Birkenau was the largest extermination camp of all times. Between 1942 and its evacuation, approximately five to six million people were killed there and I can confirm that as an eyewitness.

In the year 1944, the big persecution of the Jews began. For this purpose, the famous SS Oberstabsführer Hoess was brought in from Berlin as a specialist.

Transport after transport arrived. The trains rolled in day and night from Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland and Germany.

I will report what happened from the loading ramp (the "Jew's ramp") to their final demise.

The trains arrived. They were told to leave their luggage in the train and to take only their hand baggage. The SS posts or the block elders drove them out of the wagon. In the front, the so-called "sorters" were standing: SS Hauptsturmführer Kramer and the SS doctors, Dr. Thilo, Dr. Mengele, Dr. Endres, Dr. Würth, Dr. Fischer, and Dr. König. They condemned the people to death at their own discretion.

Each transport consisted of 2,500 to 3,000 people, except French transports: they had only 1,000.

An average of 15% of each transport was kept in the camp as able-bodied workers. The people who came out of the wagon had to pass by the mass murderer-doctors, and these doctors just said "right or left," it did not even matter whether the prisoners were sick or healthy, if they didn't like somebody, they sent him to the left. Whole families with husband, wife, child or even several children were condemned to the cruel game that came now. The SS brought the ones that had been sent to the left to the crematory like animals for slaughter, people who collapsed on the way were shot immediately.

The ones who had been sent to the right came to the big disinfection facility that I had to lead. There, the new prisoners were counted. The women had to go to the big admission room first. They were told to get totally naked and to take their shoes with them. Everything, including the last shirt, was taken from these people. Jewelry, watches, rings, necklaces, brilliants, money, gold, and everything valuable was taken from them. They were checked in detail, "open your mouth," cheeks apart, they grasped their hair. They wanted to be sure to get everything because Hitler needed the money and the foreign exchange to continue the war and his thousand-year Reich. Then the clothes were checked thoroughly. All that was done by women for the female prisoners and by men for the male prisoners. But if one of us took something and was caught, he was shot immediately. Only the SS could steal as much as they wanted and get rich until it attracted attention and was stemmed. After the body search the hair was cut. They shaved the hair of the women as well as the men. That was another typically German method. Then the prisoners had to take a bath and put on their new clothes. Finally they were taken to the camp they had been assigned to.

It went like that for six months without interruption, day and night. My work unit consisted of 2,000 prisoners, day and night shift. We worked in a cleared, isolated camp where we could not get in contact with other prisoners, to avoid the so-called deals.

If smaller transports arrived, they came directly to me into the admission room. Often they had to stay there for two to three days and wait until the SS doctor came. Dr. Thilo, Dr. Mengele, and Dr. Endres distinguished themselves especially by their unfair behavior. If they were in a bad mood, they sent the whole group to be gassed. And there, I dare say, that I personally did save hundreds of lives. If the doctors were gone, I started to sort, and if, let's say, 400 were supposed to be gassed, after I sorted only 300 ended up being brought there for gassing. But I could do that only if there were no SS posts in the room. That was often the case, because these dogs were drunk most of the time. Everything could be bought for money and gold in Poland, even Schnapps. I did this difficult mission by myself. It was evident that my own life was in danger. But I am a human and they were humans. Everybody has a right to live, whether Jew or Christian, that has always been my principle and motto.

Concentration Camp Birkenau Near Auschwitz (Upper Silesia)

Crematory 1 and 2, daily capacity 10-12,000 people gassed and cremated. View of the basement from above.

[diagram omitted]

The people entered an elegant locker room by a side entrance. They had to get undressed, but hurry, hurry, fast, fast, men, women and children. Then they had to run into the "so-called bath," which really was the gassing room. If someone did not want to enter, he was chased in like an animal.

were condemned to death by gassing were led into an underground anteroom with benches and seats. It was possible to lead 2,000 people at the same time into this room. It was announced over loudspeakers that everybody should get undressed, take their shoes in the hand, and roll up their clothes, so they would find them after the bath. Now the people were led into the gas chamber. That was a long room with five column-like wire structures from the bottom to the ceiling. Right above the wire columns there were hinged lids. An SS man opened these lids from the outside to throw gas cans in. The gas cans looked like food cans. They closed the gas chamber with a heavy rubber-sealed door that had a small barred window through which an SS man could observe the state of the prisoners that were being gassed. After approximately 15 minutes all were lying dead or anaesthetized on the ground. The gas was blown out of the chamber with electric ventilators. After that the Jewish "special unit" went into action. The dead were loaded on cars that went on long tracks to the three ovens. Each oven had three doors. The burning went very quickly because it was kept up with strong electrical ventilators and brick fire. I forgot to say that before the bodies were loaded on the cars a doctor had to check each of them for gold teeth. Then he had to pull them out. I myself found many gold teeth and also foreign gold that the men of the special units must have hidden.

The crematory was such a strong building that it was impossible to pull it down by hand. We only managed to pull down the chimney and the roof. We prepared the blowing up of the rest of the building by breaking holes in the walls, but the camp was evacuated before the actual blowing up. If nobody else has done that, it must still be possible to see the foundation walls of the former crematory.

The evacuation of the camp went as follows. In the morning we did not go to work. Each of us was given two slices of bread and we were led out of the camp closely guarded by SS men. (For the first time not in rows of five!!) We had to carry the luggage of the SS men. There was deep snow, and after a few kilometers the first weak prisoners lagged behind. They were shot instantly. After 40 kilometers we took the first break. Usually we walked during the night, too. After two days they loaded us on coal-wagons and after another two days on the train we arrived in the concentration camp Gross Rosen.

There the German prisoners welcomed us with beatings and curses. I was there only four days but those four days I won't forget. All 2,000 of us were crammed into much too small barracks; there we stayed for

Selections were held once every month in each camp. The people that had to go to the right were distributed between the different labor camps. There are various kinds of work places, mines, factories, but mainly construction and canalization, i.e., earth moving. One has to get up at 4:30 in the morning, roll call at 5:30, and then a 6:30 departure of the different units to their work places. At the entrance of the camp, there is a band of about 60 musicians that plays marches. Once I marched out to the music of "Stars and Stripes."

In command at work are so-called *Capos*, old prisoners, usually German professional criminals or Poles, who are also the foremen. They beat a lot, especially old people and prisoners that cannot work continuously because of exhaustion. While I was in the concentration camp Auschwitz, in the unit "Petersen" one man next to me was beaten, or rather trampled to death, during work because he could not handle his shovel well.

At noon we had a break of 1/2 hour to eat our soup, then we worked on until 4 o'clock, in summer until 5 o'clock. Then we marched back to the camp (again with music) and then we had two hours roll call outdoors, summer and winter.

Food: About 300 grams of bread and one liter soup (usually almost pure water) per day and about 150 grams of margarine, two times 50 grams of sausage and two times 50 grams of marmalade per week. With the hard physical labor, that is much too little, so that one gets more and more exhausted.

Each month there is a selection. Everybody who was so wasted that he could not work well anymore (about 43 kilograms, a so-called Muslim), or who could not keep himself straight or walk quickly, was loaded on a truck and brought to Birkenau to the gas chamber. These gas chambers were pulled down in November 1944, after that there were no selections anymore. I had lost thirty pounds in seven weeks in quarantine (without any hard labor).

Before the end of 1943, 30-40 prisoners were beaten to death every day in the work detachments. Since the end of 1943, this has changed and the treatment in all concentration camps was better. I, myself, was rescued by the fact that I got blood poisoning, so that I came to the hospital and had surgery. Later one of my fingers was amputated. The medical treatment in the hospital was very good. We got less food than in the camp (only 200 grams of bread per day).

The Germans left the camp on 13 January 1945 and took with them all healthy prisoners. These had to march in winter with inadequate